

## Patent claims

1. Method for the treatment of contaminated materials, particularly infected materials, in which said materials are fed by means of an input unit (2, 3, 4) to a conveyor system (9) extending into a treatment chamber (6) where they are heated, treated, and discharged via a discharge element (12), characterized in that, a first treatment zone for moistening the infected material is made in which a liquid reservoir (16) is produced in a first region of the treatment chamber (6) with the liquid present in the infected material and/or the external addition of water by slanting essentially the entire treatment chamber (6) upwards in the direction of transport and the liquid reservoir is heated to a temperature lower than the boiling point of water, whereby the first region lies adjacent the lower end of the treatment chamber,  
  
and a second treatment zone for disinfection and/or sterilization is made by heating a second region which extends from the first region to the higher end of the treatment chamber (6) at least partially to a temperature above the boiling point of water and by building up the steam pressure necessary for disinfection and/or sterilization in the second region.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the second region is subdivided into sections with varying temperatures.
3. Method according to claim 2, characterized in that in the second region, the desired steam pressure is generated by the evaporation of the inherent moisture of the material to be treated and/or by the supply of water in liquid form and/or steam.
4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the level of the liquid reservoir (16) is regulated by an overflow (15).
5. Method according to claim 4, characterized in that liquid from the overflow (15) is fed back into the liquid reservoir (16).



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12. Device according to one of the claims 8 to 11, characterized in that the treatment chamber (6) has an overflow (15) for regulation of a liquid reservoir (16).

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